



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. in the 700 Lavaca Building, Multifunction Room C, 1st floor, in Austin, Texas.

Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and declared a quorum present.

Attendance: Present were Margarine Beaman, Adrienne Rison-Isom, Bob Perkins, Patti Hansen, Jeannette Cook, May Schmidt, Danny Camacho, Bill Beare, Shawn Malone, Bob Ward, Rosemary Morrow, Teri Flack, Barry Hutcheson, Nora Jackson, and Marty Moulthrop. Marjorie Alford, Vonnys Rice-Gardner, Nancy Hamilton and David White were absent.

Minutes: A motion to approve the corrected minutes of the meeting on June 11 was made by Bob Perkins, seconded by Barry Hutcheson, and approved.

Introduction of guests: One guest from the West Point Society, Fred Boswell, attended the meeting.

Report from the Chair – Bob Ward

1. Update on Mt. Bonnell Marker – The issue will appear on the Commission agenda again in October.
2. Shoal Creek Walking Tour to be scheduled in the fall.
3. State Hospital Cemetery Tour will be organized by May Schmidt.
4. The Chair reminded the Commission of discussions of Camp Terry during previous meetings. He noted that certain aerial photographs and drawings had been discovered and provided copies to be sent to the Travis County Archives.
5. Discussions continue regarding preservation of the Pfluger House. Plans to make the historic house an attractive feature of the pending development will have to be in place for the developer to agree to donate the house and an acre of land.
6. Mr. Ward reported that the Travis County Historical Commission would be featured in the “game changers” section of the Texas Historical Commission web site. He also noted that the Travis County Historical Commission had received another Distinguished Service Award.

Treasurer’s Report – Nora Jackson

Following up on the conversations in May and June, there were additional discussions regarding the advice from the Travis County Attorney’s Office regarding the depositing of all Historical Commission funds in the County treasury. Adrienne Rison-Isom said that she had seen discussions during Commissioners Court of some entity being granted approval by the Court to open a new account at Chase Bank.

Research Committee – Teri Flack

No historical marker applications have been received for this cycle yet, but there have been queries. Ms. Flack suggests that anyone who plans to submit a marker application do so in time for the October meeting. Ms. Flack reported that Sarah McCleskey of the Texas Historical Commission had sent an email regarding freedmen communities in Austin and a marker, but the communication was not completely clear.

Projects Committee – Patti Hansen

1. By-Laws Revisions – Barry Hutcheson, Judge Perkins and others may contact the County Attorney's office regarding legal advice on the deposit of Historical Commission funds in the County treasury. Judge Perkins mentioned that he had discussed options with Travis County Treasurer Dolores Ortega-Carter.
2. Essay Contest – Rosemary Morrow observed that with the fall semester starting, the next essay contest cycle would be getting under way.
3. African American Schools – One school that had been left out of the essay section has been added in the latest round of edits, according to Rosemary Morrow. Margarine Beaman shared news regarding identification of people in a photo taken of Creedmoor school personnel.

Public Relations Committee – Marty Moulthrop

Ms. Moulthrop reported that the PR Committee (Commission members Margie Alford, Barry Hutcheson, Jeannette Cook, and Ms. Moulthrop) had met during the summer to decide on a recommendation to the full Commission. Based on that recommendation, Ms. Moulthrop made a motion to bestow an Award of Merit on Michael Barnes. Bill Beare seconded the motion and it was approved. A location and guest list for a ceremony were discussed.

CLG Committee – Bob Ward

The Southwest Survey RFP has been completed legal review. Three grant applications will be discussed during the Commissioners Court meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 16: Southwest-West Survey, Pfluger House, and the African-American/Mexican-American Settlement Pattern Study.

Announcements & Comments:

Adrienne Rison-Isom announced that she plans a presentation at the next Commission meeting regarding the rehabilitation of dilapidated cemeteries and application of her plans to the Travis County International Cemetery where paupers are buried. May Schmidt plans to send notices about three events during October for Archeology Month: (1.) Travis County Archeological Society, Sarah & Ransom Williams site (2.) Saturday Sept. 13, French Legation (3.) Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting in San Marcos. Barry Hutcheson announced that this year's Travis County History Day is scheduled for Oct. 24th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary